

Howard County Environmental Sustainability Board – Robinson Nature Center

January 12, 2012

| Board Members            | OES Staff         | Other |
|--------------------------|-------------------|-------|
| Cathy Hudson, Vice Chair | Josh Feldmark     |       |
| Sherman Howell           | Chris Russell     |       |
| Chien Chi                | Lindsay DeMarzo   |       |
| Betsy Singer             | Laura A.T. Miller |       |
| Naureen Elahi            | Jim Caldwell      |       |
| Georgia Eacker           | Elissa Reineck    |       |
| Mark Southerland         |                   |       |
| Sandi Olek               |                   |       |

Cathy Hudson opened the meeting. The first order of business was the previously drafted and edited stormwater resolution. Josh read the full resolution, and the Board passed the resolution by unanimous consent.

*In support of the comprehensive, long-term effort to restore the health of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, the Howard County Environmental Sustainability Board resolves that:*

- There is an urgent need for innovative approaches to stormwater management to meet the challenging requirements of the County's new NPDES MS4 (stormwater) permit and Chesapeake Bay TMDL WIP (watershed implementation plan). These requirements include unprecedented levels of treatment of impervious surfaces and reductions in nutrient and sediment loadings to downstream waters.*
- The County should undertake an initiative to create one or more model neighborhoods where the widest range of stormwater management practices are implemented in conjunction with other infrastructure repairs needed in the communities. Specifically, the County should identify one or more neighborhoods that agree to implement a comprehensive suite of stormwater practices, including Environmental Site Design features (e.g., pesticide and fertilizer source reduction, riparian and urban tree planting, downspout disconnection, cisterns, dry wells, raingardens, grassy swales, and pervious pavement). Ideally, this initiative should involve the landscaping business community which may be integral to implementing stormwater practices on private property.*
- The goal of this effort is to effect a substantial and maintained improvement in established Howard County neighborhoods that were constructed without concern for stormwater management. Creating one or more model stormwater management neighborhoods will "show what it looks like" and demonstrate that such practices can be acceptable and successful elsewhere in the County.*

The CSX discussion was opened by Cathy, with the emphasis on developing a strategy for complying with the Council Resolution. Cathy requested Mark to contact CSX to request that they come in February to present on methodology for the Environmental Assessment.

Cathy introduced Chris for his energy update. \$45k was awarded from the MEA to the Housing Commission. It will go to Orchard Crossing for replacement of water heaters and refrigerators; this will reduce the energy bill for residents.

Lindsay presented about the status of GreenFest. 45 vendors to date – new this year is REI and Chesapeake Bay Foundation. The suggestion was made that the Board express appreciation to Kathy Zimmerman and request her presence at GreenFest. Laura was asked to draft said letter and forward to Cathy Hudson.

Josh presented the Director's report. The Home Energy Audits Program is wrapping up for new applications in the next week or two – getting the data processed will take several months; the intention is to include web interface and neighborhood targeting. Applications will no longer be accepted as of January 31, 2012.

Chris Russell's final day as full time Energy Manager is the end of January – then he will be assisting on a consulting basis. The board thanked him for his work in saving energy in the county over the past two years.

A County-wide sustainability status report is in the works.

Josh shared with the Board that he and Laura had met with the Sierra Club, Community Research, and Waste Not Carroll.

Lindsay announced the Green Infrastructure Meeting for the public on January 18<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.

Georgia announced the Earth Forum with Rep Jon Sarbanes on January 15<sup>th</sup> at 2pm.

Georgia would like to issue certificates of appreciation for an event in March where students/young people that have been involved in environmental efforts will be recognized. She would like for Ned or someone to present and sign off on certificates; and to incorporate Naureen in to the event.

Josh announced that Hollie has invited partners to attend classes as desired.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.